

For more information contact: Betty VanDeventer at 402.471.4537 or betty.vandeventer@nebraska.gov
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NEBRASKA HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES CONTINUE TO OUTSCORE PEERS ON ACT EXAM

Nebraska's 2011 high school graduates scored higher than their peers nationally on the ACT college entrance exam and also outscored other graduates in the subjects measuring college readiness.

In the four areas used to determine college readiness, Nebraska graduates scored higher than students in other states in each subject:

- 76 percent met the English goal, compared to 66 percent nationally.
- 60 percent tested ready in reading, compared to 52 percent nationally.
- 50 percent met the mathematics benchmark, compared to 45 percent nationally.
- 36 percent tested ready in science, compared to 30 percent nationally.

The state's high school graduates scored on average 22.1, compared to 21.1 nationally, continuing the state's long tradition of high school graduates scoring higher than their peers across the country on the ACT.

"While the ACT scores are consistent with those in recent past years, we have work to do to ensure that a greater number of students are college and career ready when they graduate," said Nebraska Education Commissioner Roger Breed.

The 2011 ACT scores released today showed that Nebraska's average ACT score has held steady at 22.1 since 2007. The highest possible ACT score is 36.

Of the 15 states with 75 percent or more graduates taking the ACT, Nebraska scored at the top, with 76 percent or 16,461 graduates taking the ACT exam.

Highlights of the 2011 Nebraska ACT report include:

- ✓ Scores of student groups by race and ethnicity, five-year trend data:

Graduate Groups - Nebraska	2007	2011
All Students	22.1	22.1
Black/African American	17.9	17.5
American Indian/Alaska Native	19.1	18.8
White	22.4	22.7
Hispanic/Latino	19.2	19.0
Asian	22.7	22.3
Native Hawaiian/Other Pacific Islander	Not Available	17.3
Two or more races	21.6	20.8
Prefer not to respond/No response	22.1	22.0

- ✓ 80 percent of Nebraska's graduates had taken their high school's core curriculum and scored 22.7 while graduates taking less than the core curriculum scored lower at 19.6.

For more information, go to www.act.org.